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Why Did Pfizer Halt COVID Vaccine Clinical Trials for Pregnant Women?

- Pfizer halted its COVID-19 vaccine trial for pregnant women — without any evidence of harm — because it was concerned that the vaccine would cause miscarriages and stillbirths
- Pfizer suddenly stopped its randomized trial that compared vaccine to placebo. The trial was not due to produce its study data

By Dr. Joseph Mercola

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Story at a glance

- In February 2021, Pfizer launched a randomized, placebo-controlled, observer-blinded trial to evaluate the safety of its COVID-19 shot in 4,000 pregnant women, 13 healthy pregnant women
- The injections were set to take place between 24 and 34 weeks gestation, with participants randomized 1-to-1 to receive Pfizer's shot or the placebo
- The study was initially set to enroll 4,000 women, but Pfizer only signed up 13 healthy pregnant women
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendation endorsement of COVID-19 shots for pregnant women before the study was complete, despite the fact that there is no data on safety
- Pfizer stated that because so many pregnant women had already gone ahead and received the shot, it was unethical to withhold the shot from enrollment-designated women who were in the placebo group

No randomized trial data are available for use of the COVID-19 shot in pregnant women, and Pfizer cut its pregnancy trial short.

But this doesn't stop the CDC from recommending COVID-19 injections for everyone 6 months and older, including "people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or those who might become pregnant in the future."

"Not having any good data didn't seem to bother the CDC," Dr. Marvin Makary, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, wrote in Twitter.

And a team of scientists petitioned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to add a disclaimer to the shot's label about the lack of safety data in pregnancy. The FDA declined, stating that this information wouldn't be relevant.

Pregnant women, however, do need to know about the shot's lack of testing in pregnancy, and they need to be informed about the potential risks. They also need to be interested in a true clinical trial designed to pregnancy trial early and for pain to make the results a lot less public.

Pfizer stopped COVID jab pregnancy trial, withholds data

In February 2021, Pfizer launched a randomized, placebo-controlled, observer-blinded trial to evaluate the safety of its COVID-19 shot in 4,000 healthy pregnant women. The injections were set to take place between 24 and 34 weeks gestation, with participants randomized 1-to-1 to receive Pfizer's shot or the placebo.

But while the study was initially set to enroll 4,000 women, Pfizer only signed up 346, then stopped enrollment entirely.

"Most concerning," Makary explained, "the pregnancy outcomes of those who participated in the trial, and their babies, are still not public more than two years later."

Pregnant and breastfeeding women were excluded from Pfizer's and Moderna's Phase 3 clinical trials, but in April 2021, CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky announced, "CDC recommends that pregnant people receive the COVID-19 vaccine."

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine soon echoed this statement, recommending that women get vaccinated, as did the UK's Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

So, as the months passed, hundreds of thousands of pregnant women globally rolled up their sleeves to receive the vaccine, despite the absence of any safety data.

"The message from authorities was clear — the harm from COVID-19 infection outweighed any harms from the mRNA vaccine — but in truth, they couldn't know for certain," Dr. Denise Rodgers, MD, MPH, a clinical professor of obstetrics at the University of Adelaide and former reporter for ABC News in Australia, wrote.

Animal studies show fetal loss, skeletal anomalies

Pfizer's product labeling suggested, "No vaccine-related adverse effects on female fertility, fetal development or postnatal development were reported."

But, Denise reported, a freedom of information request from 2021 showed this was based on an animal study of just 44 rats, which showed "significant problems" about fetal loss:

> "The study found the vaccine led to a statistically significant doubling in fetal loss (9.7% mRNA vs 4.08% saline), but Pfizer concluded that the difference between the two groups was 'not biologically relevant.'"

"The label also states that Pfizer's mRNA vaccine was not tested for its potential to cause carcinogenicity (ability to cause cancer), genotoxicity (ability to damage genetic information), or impairment of male fertility."

An animal study conducted by Moderna also showed a significant number of rats were born with skeletal variations after their mothers were injected with the COVID-19 vaccine, Denise added.

But, according to Denise, Moderna's researchers claimed the skeletal variations are structural changes that do not impact development or reproduction in the embryo and therefore "not considered adverse."

Trial stopped because many pregnant women already injected

Pfizer hasn't publicly explained why its trial on pregnant women was stopped short, nor why the resulting data hasn't been published. It's possible they ended the trial because of unfavorable results. It wouldn't be the first time.

However, in this case, it appears the CDC's widespread endorsement of COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant women and the media buzz surrounding it may have negated the need for the trial altogether, at least from Pfizer's perspective.

As Makary put it:

> "In the case of the COVID vaccine trial in pregnant women, the trial may have been terminated not because the results were unfavorable, but because no data was needed. The medical and public health establishment had already made up its mind. Vaccination was a safe and effective regardless of what the data was going to show. Any analysis or product if the CDC and ACOG are already sold on the product?"

Denise agreed.

In fact, she published an email from Pfizer, in which the company admitted that enrollment for their trial significantly declined at the end of March 2021, as health officials had already given the shot their seal of approval.

Because so many pregnant women had already received the shot, due to the government's endorsement, many women were no more to move ahead with the study.

Denise published Pfizer's email response, which reads:

> "In the fourth quarter of 2021, enrollment was stopped in C4591015 Study (a Phase 2/3 placebo-controlled randomized observer-blind study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, immunogenicity and efficacy of SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 in healthy pregnant women 18 years of age and older). The study was developed prior to availability of vaccination against COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women.
>
> "The environment changed during 2021 and by September 2021, COVID-19 vaccines were recommended by applicable recommendations in the U.S., ACIP in the U.S.) for pregnant women in all participating/planned countries, and as a result the enrollment was declined significantly.
>
> "With the declining enrollment, the study had insufficient sample size to meet the primary objective of the study. The recommendation that placebo-controlled study could no longer be justified per current recommendations. This proposal was shared with and agreed to by FDA and EMA."

As for the lack of published data, Pfizer stated it doesn't have it.

> "Pfizer does not yet have a complete data set from the maternal immunization study, C4591015, Pfizer and BioNTech plan to complete the study as planned and will submit the data when they are available, including for publication and/or presentation as a top of publication."

"It is important to note that relevant real-world evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women has been published and published numerous times to various parties in multiple journals and forums."

Natural immunity is still being ignored

Not only does ACOG "strongly recommend" that pregnant women get a COVID-19 shot, they also recommend a booster dose.

"Vaccination may occur in any trimester, and emphasis should be on vaccine receipt as soon as possible to maximize maternal and fetal benefit. This recommendation applies to both primary series and booster vaccinations," ACOG states.

But missing from their information is data about natural immunity.

Research by Makary and colleagues, published in JAMA, showed that natural immunity to COVID-19 — achieved by prior infection, not an injection — was durable for about two years, suggesting it's longer lasting than the protection gained from a COVID-19 shot.

A systematic review and meta-analysis published in The Lancet also revealed natural immunity to be at least as effective as, and likely superior to, COVID-19 injections.

Health officials don't have the data Pfizer's randomized trial of the shots in pregnant women would have provided, but they've already made up their minds and issued immunity — they're still recommending everyone get the shots.

Scientists warn pregnant women not to receive COVID shots

Not everyone's on board with health agencies' push for pregnant women to get injected.

"The pushing of these experimental COVID-19 vaccines globally is the greatest violation of medical ethics in the history of medicine, maybe humanity," Dr. James Thorp, a maternal-fetal medicine expert, told Tucker Carlson.

Thorp and colleagues published a preprint study that found strong risks to pregnant women who received the shots, along with their unborn babies.

The outcomes were so dire that the researchers concluded pregnant women should not receive COVID-19 shots until further research is completed.

"A worldwide moratorium on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy is advised until corroborated prospective trials are completed, ensuring safety and long-term follow-up is offspring," they explained.

Compared to the vaccine, COVID-19 infections were associated with a significant increase in adverse events including:

- Abnormal abdominality
- Miscarriage
- Fetal chromosomal abnormalities
- Fetal malformation
- Fetal cystic hygroma
- Fetal hydrops fetalis
- Fetal arrhythmia
- Fetal cardiac arrest
- Fetal vascular malformation
- Fetal growth abnormalities
- Fetal abnormal surveillance
- Fetal placental thrombosis
- Low amniotic fluid
- Fetal death/stillbirth

The data also revealed a 27-fold higher risk of miscarriage and a more than twofold increased risk of adverse fetal outcomes across six different categories, according to Spanish medical internist and cardiologist Dr. Pedro Chaparro.

Will study confirm menstrual changes post jabs

Dataset manipulation has also been confirmed following COVID-19 shots, according to a study published in Obstetrics & Gynecology — funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Wellcome Trust — which found that 42% of women who received COVID-19 shots noted no significant changes in cycle flow during the study compared to their first cycle, Reuters said.

But those who received COVID-19 shots had longer menstrual cycles, typically by less than one day when they received the shots.

The European Union, meanwhile, has recommended that "heavy menstrual bleeding" be added as a side effect to COVID-19 shots.

Makary noted:

> "Here in the U.S. there's been no such update to product labeling. This lack of humility was also evident when healthy young women were told with no data to support it that they had a 1 in 5,000 risk of myocarditis. Why not tell eight-year-old girls that they have a 1 in 5,000 risk of stroke?"

Officials choose 'scare-patriotism' over informed consent

In the absence of data for a vulnerable population — pregnant and breastfeeding women — health officials should have urged caution.

As the effectiveness of natural immunity became clear, people should have been informed of this and warned of potential risks. Instead, in the name of "safety," they could make an informed decision before consenting to an injection that could have serious reproductive effects.

The Institute for Pure and Applied Knowledge felt the data were compelling enough to file a petition with the FDA, requesting that the shots be withdrawn for women, but health officials chose, instead, to make them pump gas for an untested, experimental shot.

In the absence of good data, organized medicine chose the path of the pandemic. But in my experience as a physician, it's far better to properly inform a patient rather than steamroll their questions. Period.

If and when Pfizer does release the data, it's possible that health agencies will have some explaining to do if the data aren't favorable.

Makary continued:

> "It may be that Pfizer's pregnancy trial would have been favorable to the vaccine, showing that the benefits outweigh harms, but Pfizer has not released the data.
>
> "Perhaps the data was not favorable, or perhaps Pfizer realized they had convinced the medical establishment without data, so why run the risk of sharing what a placebo-controlled trial showed."

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